

ÉMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
REFORMER 295

Ernest and his brother Frank Vizetolly, proceeded to Pentonville, where they were received very courteously "by the deputy governor, who said to them: " Yes, your father is here. Why he was sent I do not know; we have no accommodation for first-class misdemeanants. None have ever been sent here before. Your father is in a shocking state, he had been suffering for hours when he arrived here; I have placed him temporarily in our infirmary. I telegraphed to the Prison Commissioners but have had no answer. You should go to them at once at "Whitehall, and ask them to remove Mm to Holloway."

This was done. The facts were set out in writing and sent in to some of the Commissioners, who, after an interval of an hour or so, received Frank Vizetolly, and airily told him that there was no mistake at all, that his father had been sent to Holloway and would be found there! The fact is that, while the sons were waiting, telegraphic instructions had been sent to Pentonville for Vizetolly's removal. What could not be effected in an instant on account of his serious condition, but when he was lodged in the infirmary at Holloway the Commissioners felt they were safe from any charge of neglect. Ernest Vizetolly, however, was not disposed to let the matter drop, and having

drafted a ques-
tion for the Home Secretary (Mr. Matthews)
he wrote to
Mr. Labouchere, M. P., to inquire if he would
ask it in the
House of Commons. He received the following
character-
istic reply:

Dear Sir, —I do not think that the clorks
at the table would
accepfc the question as written, for it
enters too fully into details.
However, be this as it may, I should not be
the proper person to
ask it, for I have had many actions for
libels, and it would be